



October 2014 Members Meeting Minutes

Date: October 30, 2014

Minute Taker: Nadine Thibeh, Member at Large

Chair: Sepehr Mohaddes, Board Member

Decisions Summary:

1. WPIRG will donate \$500 to the ACT Decolonizing Thanksgiving Dinner from the Community Solidarity budget line.
2. WPIRG will donate \$2000 to Engineers Without Borders-UW (EWB) from the Campus Solidarity budget line to support the funding of an EWB intern paid at a living wage.
3. WPIRG endorses the “Yes” side in the Fall Reading Break referendum.

Meeting Starts at 6:00pm. Quorum is met.

Item

1. Introduction & Review of Meeting Rules and Agreement
 - Chair briefly discusses what WPIRG does and explains Members Meeting purpose (make decisions while bringing student and community members together)
 - Chair explains Rusty's Rules of Order

Question: How to raise a point – explained. Votes are simple majority.

Blue strips used as votes. Quorum is 25 voting members meaning that

25 members are needed at the meeting for decision making to take place.

- Point of order: The room is asked to pause the meeting in order for a group photo to be taken with “WON'T RENT SCHEMBRI” signs.
- Campaign is explained and group photo is taken.

Recognition of land: Member recognizes that the meeting is taking place on stolen indigenous land (six nations of Grand River)

2. Approval of Agenda

- Agenda is reviewed item by item (brief explanation of each, more detail below)
- Member moves to bring up item 6 after item 3

-Vote is unanimous against. Agenda is not amended.

- Members moves to approve the agenda

-Members vote unanimously to adopt the agenda.

3. Approval of minutes from September Members Meeting

- Member motions to approve. Approved unanimously.

4. Presentation by UW members of the Ontario United Front of Hong Kong Students.

Presentation summary:

-Umbrella Revolution name chosen due to protestors using umbrellas to protect themselves against police pepper spray

-Started on Sept 26; protest is working for political reform to strive for universal suffrage

-Have had student strikes before on this issue. Protest started by started by the Hong Kong Federation of Students – 8 universities in HK, all part of this student union)

-Used Occupy Central as a model

-HK gov't has high degree of autonomy expect for foreign and defence affairs

-Chinese gov't decided nominees for the election (not universal suffrage as as promised)

Most recent update in HK:

-People are occupying a few different places in HK (Causeway Bay, etc.), all 3 major business centres (malls, banks, etc)

-People are all over the street, donating water to protestors, while the government is using tear gas/ pepper spray on civilians (7th night since revolution people on street all day)

-Gov't has hired gangs to abuse people to break the protests

- yellow ribbon = support HK, blue = Break U.R)

5. Funding Applications

a. ACT Decolonizing dinner (Attachment #1)

- For an event that has already happened – requesting \$800 for decolonizing annual thanksgiving dinner (to recognize fact of living on colonial land)
- Associated with OPIRG Guelph and want WPIRG to funds as well

- Member motions to amend to \$500. Amendment considered friendly.
- Vote is 14 for, 8 against, 7 aside. Motion to donate \$500 to Act Decolonizing Dinner is passed.

b. Engineers Without Borders (EWB) (Attachment #2)

- EWB sends student volunteers over seas; UW chapter has moved away from sending volunteers overseas and values sending people to work (to fund students to work in their own countries – Canada specifically)
- Wants WPIRG funding so that students' wages will be brought up to a living wage.
- Member's question: Do you have trouble recruiting for position due to wage being less than average wage for coop
- Would be on jobmine (more visible to students)
- Good cause as helps students pay for their tuition
- Motion to approve funding (seconded)
- Member motions to call the question. Seconded. Vote to call the question: 14 for, 8 against, 7 against. Question is called.
- Vote on the motion: 20 in favour, 5 against. Motion is approved.

6. Member Motions

- a. Reading Break Referendum Endorsement - Yumna Zaghlol
- Be it Resolved that WPIRG endorse the 'Yes' side in the reading break referendum*

- Referendum questions created after multiple surveys in the faculties that would be impacted the most (coop, engineering, etc)
- Mention of Mental Health (a week to de-stress)
- Reading Break (not an actual week) – only 2 days, over thanks giving weekend
- Issue: not fair to students who have different co-op streams, some students academically excel with reading break
- Support for extra free time during Fall term
- Member moves to amend the motion so that WPIRG will support the “yes” side but without using mental health arguments. Amendment is considered friendly.
- Vote on motion as amended: 27 yes, 2 against.

7. Action Groups Updates & Announcements

- Palestine Solidarity Action Group
 - Hosted the panel event “They came in Ships (regarding colonialism from Turtle Island to Palestine)
 - Gained new members (training for events for upcoming terms/ building connections with other groups on campus [for Palestinian struggle awareness) and what connections UW has with occupied land of Palestine)
 - Went to conference in Boston and learned about campuses in USA that are pushing for Palestinian rights

- Works on climate change and energy sector issues
- Developing fossil fuel divestment campaign at UW
- Upcoming events: movie, speaker,
- Meeting EWB office E5 2001 every Wednesday at 4:30

- Cinema Politica

- Second movie was a hit with over 40 people, and speaker
- Next movie in the series in November and ends Palestinian focus
(Nov 26)
- Choosing documentaries for the Winter term soon

- Amnesty International

- FB page: Amensity International – Waterloo Chapter
- One more meeting in mid-late November to do letter writing
 - Refer to FB page for alerts
 - Potential: petition signing in SLC for campaigns

8. Announcements from Associated Clubs/Groups

Kitchener-Waterloo Solidarity Network

- Work with people get stolen wages and deposits back from bad bosses/landlords
- FB: Kirchner-Waterloo Solidarity network
- Won a few cases lately, if want to get involved email wpirg for information/refer to fb page

9. Upcoming Events

- Anti oppression training happening Nov. 13, facilitated by Janice Lee (RCH 308, 5:30-8:30)
- Events for WPIRG: need volunteers for event in Winter term regarding School of Public Interest Research = looking for Event planning outreach position

9. Presentation of WPIRG Bursary

- Winner is: **need name**) Wrote about STEM cell research and women involvement